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National Park Service Announces Petersen House to Close for Major Rehabilitation and Repair

Washington, D.C.—The National Park Service (NPS) announces Petersen House (the house where President Abraham Lincoln died) to close to the public for rehabilitation and repair beginning September 26, 2010.

The NPS will initiate a project to rehabilitate and repair the exterior and interior of the Petersen House in a manner that protects and maintains the cultural resources and values for which the Petersen House was established. Work will include the installation of a new climate management system and repairs to the historic windows, casings, doors and shutters. Work on the Petersen House is expected to be completed in the spring of 2011.

The NPS acquired the Petersen House in 1933, and has maintained it as a historic house museum, recreating the scene at the time of Lincoln's death. The Petersen house is part of the Ford's Theatre National Historic Site.

While the Petersen House is closed for rehabilitation and repair, visitors may visit www.nps.gov/foth and www.fords.org to learn about that fateful night and the people who surrounded the President in his final hours as well as learn and experience Ford's Theatre.

Ford's Theatre and the museum will remain open to the public during the construction period. Admission to Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (NHS) is free; all visitors two years of age and older must present a timed entry ticket. Tickets can be reserved through Ticketmaster at (202) 397-SEAT or online at Ticketmaster.com. A limited number of same-day tickets are available at the Box Office beginning at 8:30 a.m. Depending upon the schedule, a visit to Ford's Theatre NHS includes entry to the museum followed by an interpretive or educational presentation by either the NPS or Ford's Theatre Society (FTS) on the stage, or a walk-through of the theatre.

Since Ford's Theatre's reopening in 1968, more than 100 years after the April 14, 1865, assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, it has been one of the most visited sites in the nation's capital. Operated through a partnership with the NPS and FTS, Ford's Theatre has enthralled visitors because of its unique place in United States history, and its mission to celebrate the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and explore the American experience through theatre and education. The NPS and FTS work together to present the Theatre's nearly one million annual visitors with a high quality historical and cultural experience.

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